

## IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a packet network having base stations for communication with mobile units, comprising:

initiating a call involving a group of mobile units,

receiving a wireless signal at two or more of the base stations, from one of the mobile units,

determining at each of the base stations, a respective ~~priority-quality~~ parameter for the wireless signal as received at the base station,

adding the ~~priority-quality~~ parameters to at least some packets of the respective signals to form prioritized signals,

transmitting the prioritized signals containing the respective ~~priority-quality~~ parameters to the network,

receiving the prioritized signals at base stations in the network,

selecting at each of the base stations, a prioritized signal for transmission to mobile

units in the group, according to the respective quality parameters, and

transmitting the selected signal to the mobile units.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising ceasing transmission to the network, of a signal received from the mobile unit, after determining that the signal has a priority lower than that of a corresponding prioritized signal received from the network.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising commencing transmission of a signal to the network, received from the mobile unit, after determining that the signal has a priority greater than that of a corresponding prioritized signal received from the network.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of waiting for a predetermined time before commencing transmission of the signal to the network.
5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 3 further comprising the step of discarding at least one packet of the signal transmitted to the network.
6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the ~~priority~~quality parameter is determined by reference to a quality of the respective wireless signal received from the mobile unit, and the signal transmitted to the units is selected according to highest quality.
7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein the quality is an error count for part or all of the respective wireless signal received from the mobile unit.
8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein the quality is the received signal strength of the respective wireless signal received from the mobile unit.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the quality is the signal to noise ratio of the respective signal received from the mobile unit.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein the ~~priority-quality~~ parameter of a signal is set to a termination value when the signal ends.

11. - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method of operating a base station in a packet network during a group call between mobile units, the method comprising:

receiving a wireless signal from a mobile unit in the group call;

determining a ~~priority-quality~~ parameter for the received signal;

adding the parameter to at least some packets of the received signal to form a

~~prioritised~~ prioritized signal; and

transmitting the prioritized ~~prioritised~~ signal to the network;

receiving from the network, one or more prioritized signals originated from the mobile

unit and having respective quality parameters; and

ceasing transmission to the network if the added quality parameter is lower in priority

than any of the received quality parameters.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A method of operating a base station in a packet network during a group call between mobile units, the method comprising:

receiving prioritized ~~prioritised~~ signals containing respective ~~priority-quality~~

parameters from two or more other base stations in the network, each of the

prioritized signals having been received by the other base stations as a wireless  
signal from a common mobile unit;  
selecting one of the received signals according to the received ~~priority~~ quality  
parameters, and  
transmitting the selected signal to units in the group call.

22. (Currently amended) A method of operating a base station according to claim 21  
further comprising selecting a different one of the received signals according to changes in the  
respective ~~priority~~ quality parameters.